

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 USUN N 02227 130035Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W
-----028634 130302Z /62
R 122250Z JUL 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4448
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN 2227

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US
SUBJECT: PANAMA MISSION ISSUES FOURTH IN THE "UPDATE...
PANAMA" SERIES: STRATEGIC ISSUES

1. THE PANAMANIAN MISSION HAS A FOURTH PRESS KIT ENTITLED
"THE STRATEGIC ISSUES" IN ITS "UPDATE...PANAMA" SERIES. THE
COVERING PAPER DEALS WITH THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

--THE CANAL'S MILITARY VALUE,
--THE CANAL'S NEUTRALITY,
--US MILITARY BASES,
--CAN THE CANAL BE DEFENDED?
--DEFENSE AGAINST WHOM?
--HEMISPHERIC DEFENSE,
--COOPERATION AND CONSENT.

2. AS WITH PREVIOUS ITEMS IN THIS SERIES, THE PRESS KIT
CONTAINS VARIOUS ARTICLES, EDITORIALS AND STATEMENTS
DEALING WITH THE CENTRAL THEME.

3. THERE FOLLOWS A BRIEF SYNTHESIS OF THE MAIN POINTS: THE
CANAL'S DECLINING MILITARY IMPORTANCE IS A RESULT OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 USUN N 02227 130035Z

TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES AND CANNOT BE REVERSED; IT HAS
NEVER BEEN A DECISIVE FACTOR IN ANY CONFLICT AND WILL
BE EVEN LESS SIGNIFICANT IN THE FUTURE. THE CANAL'S
NEUTRALITY MUST BE INSURED. BOTH THE US AND PANAMA
ARE UNITED IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO DEFEND THE
CANAL. MOST OF THE US "DEFENSE" INSTALLATIONS IN
THE CANAL ZONE "IN FACT HAVE VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH

THE DEFENSE OF THE CANAL AND COULD EASILY BE RELOCATED."
THE CANAL CANNOT, IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, BE DEFENDED
AGAINST ANY DETERMINED ENEMY. US AUTHORITY OVER THE
CANAL ZONE NOW JEOPARDIZES ITS ABILITY TO INSURE THE
CANAL'S SAFETY. US MILITARY FORCES WITHIN THE CANAL
ZONE HAVE MOST OFTEN BEEN USED AGAINST PANAMANIAN.
THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST SUCH PANAMANIAN DISTURBANCES
WOULD BE TO ELIMINATE THE "CONSTANT AFFRONT TO
PANAMANIAN PATRIOTISM WHICH THE ZONE REPRESENTS." THE
SECURITY AND NEUTRALITY OF THE CANAL CAN ONLY BE
GUARANTEED BY A MUTUALLY-ACCEPTABLE ARRANGEMENT WHICH
PROVIDES FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE.

4. WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF THE KIT TO AMBASSADOR
BUNKER'S OFFICE, ARA/PAN (BECKER), IO/UNP (SCHIELE) AND
EMBASSY PANAMA.
MCHENRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, POLITICAL SITUATION, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN02227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770248-0681
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770765/aaaacefd.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ebf0e66c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1883722
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PANAMA MISSION ISSUES FOURTH IN THE \"UPDATE... PANAMA\" SERIES: STRATEGIC ISSUES
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, EWWT, PN, PQ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ebf0e66c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009